

Leicester, Monday August 27. 1849.

My dear Sir,

It was only this morning that I was thinking to myself that you had a good right to have received a letter from me long ere this; indeed I have frequently thought so since our return home; & why I have not written, I can give no sufficient reason. - I was very glad, you may be sure, to get yours, this noon, of the 22^d, and to hear so good accounts of Syracuse in general, and of your family in particular. We are sorry to lose all prospect of seeing Joseph here this year. It is not so far as he thinks for, perhaps; leaving Syracuse at "1³/₄", he could be in our house next day at 4 P. M., ^{with a good rest at Troy or Albany.} Perhaps he will yet conclude to make us a visit, this fall. September and October are good months for New England. If he were to be here from the 1st Sept^r onward, we could show him the great County Festival - Cattle Show, Horticultural Exhibition of Fruits, Mechanics Fair, Ploughing Match, &c. to which, this year, we are going to add an Anti Slavery Fair. All this he might like to see. The show of human stock which Worcester Co. turns out on that occasion will show that we are neither small potatoes, nor few in a hill. But you are about to have something of this sort in Syracuse; and perhaps on a much larger scale than our Worcester County Carnival - which however is allowed to 'take the rag' off of every thing else of the kind in these diggings. I see that L. Taylor is expected at Syracuse. I suppose there will be a remnant in S., who will not bow the knee.

We also enjoyed our journey, and our 2 visits at Syracuse, very much - very much indeed, - all the more, I suppose, from having been such steady stayers-at-home for many years. Our visit to you was short, I know - to us, very short; but this was the one fault, or defect, of the whole excursion, & of all its parts; it was too short at Trenton, too short with you, (nothing at all at Geneva & Rochester), too short at Buffalo, far too short at Niagara, and too short altogether; but it was about as long as our united purses, and we were very well content, and thankful for so much pleasure and benefit. Perhaps, if life is spared, we may repeat it. Meanwhile we shall often think of our visit to you, how kindly your habitation was thrown open to us, and how pleasantly you seemed to live. —

We were much shocked to hear of Mr. John Williams's death. How dreadful the blow to Elizabeth, as well as all the rest of the family! When here, her anxiety seemed to be for her Mother; it did not seem to have occurred to her, that her father was in danger. I hope her mother may be spared to her family. You have learned, ere this, of Theodore Garbrough's death; all I know about it is the notice in last week's Liberator.

My sister Mary's little girl (13 months old) is very ill at my father's house in Boston - with summer complaint. We have heard nothing today, and therefore hope she is better; but feel quite anxious as to the result.

Though I have had on the whole a still and uneventful summer since our return from our trip to Niagara, yet on two occasions, the 4th July celebration at Abington, and the 1st August (or rather 3^d) at Worcester, I was a good deal busied, frequently called away from home, &c. The meetings were both multitudinuous, & highly encouraging for the cause. — I have noticed that Douglass & Garnet had a controversy, but I have not observed, in the "Star", the evidences of that loss of temper, on D.'s part, of which you speak. Garnet goes to England, I have no doubt, specially retained as an advocate of the Free Produce party. Mrs. Anna Richardson of Newcastle, the most bustling & persevering of that party, strove very hard to secure Wm. W. Brown to come over to England in that capacity — afterwards, when he declined that she urged his acceptance of money for his expenses, but he declined that also, choosing to go to England uncommitted to any party, or at least not committed to those who are secret (& not very secret either) & unrelenting foes of original & uncompromising Anti-Slavery. Failing in Brown, Bibb was applied to & strenuously urged, & I suspect at one time had agreed to go to Eng. in M^r. R.'s service; but it was prevented, in some way — I know not how. And now Garnet, having proved himself a "tool" of the bigoted sectarians, who take up Anti-Slavery as a secondary matter, is deemed good enough for the ostensible free-produce, but actual anti-American Anti-Slavery Society, job which it ~~was~~ hoped will be done in England. A little severity, or even a good deal, is not misplaced on Garnet,

in my judgment; still I do not wish to see mere bickering; it is belittling, as the phrase is, to the disputants, and very often operates to the damage of the cause. — But a plain, straightforward, handsome rebuke, such as Father Matthew has been subjected to lately in Boston, although it rouses the bile and venoms of every proslavery minion in the land, can only operate well for the cause, securing eventually for its advocates the increased respect of all true men.

With regard to aid to your brother Charles I had not forgotten it, but, on the contrary, had done as the worthy Captain Cuttle would have had me do, viz. "made a note of it." My wish, as you will recollect, was to aid you in your liabilities to the Hopedale folks, and I proposed to advance twenty five dollars on what may be your debt, or obligation, to them for this year; of that sum, I wished five dollars (with your permission) to be a donation from me, and, for the remaining twenty that it should be regarded as a loan to you without interest, and to be repaid when entirely convenient to yourself, it being understood that you are never to be preped for it. And this (so far as I can foresee) I ^{shall} ~~should~~ be happy to do every year, for several years, if the arrangement be one which will really relieve & aid you. If I could do more, I should be most happy to do it, for a friend so true & so constant & so excellent as you have been to me. But at present I do not see my way to do more. — By the middle of Oct^r, I expect to be able to advance \$25. I could then

Send it to Hopedale, get a receipt, as from you for that amount, and you could send me a note or acknowledgment for \$20. borrowed, payable in 10 years, without interest.

MS. A. 9. 2. 1. 34
I am no hand at a regular business arrangement, and perhaps what I have suggested is open to objections which I do not perceive; but my single object is to afford you my poor help in bearing a portion of the burden which you have so freely & generously taken upon yourself to bear; I am glad to do it too in a direction which will aid the Hopedale friends, than whom I know not a worthier or more honourable company anywhere.

Will you write & let me know how my little project suits, or fails to suit, your views?

— You will have heard before getting this of the death of Dr. Peices — at Brookline, Friday last. The papers will give particulars, to the minutest point, I'll engage. His funeral was to have taken place this day, and has doubtless been attended by an immense throng.

The meetinghouse of Mr. Hill's Society in Worcester was burned to the bare walls last Friday eveg., while undergoing repairs. So far as I have learned, the Society are very glad of it, as it was a shapeless, tasteless, structure, and they are all agog after what someone has called the gingerbread abominations of the day. Zion must be fashionable, or the deuce is in it! Gracious goodness! if we can't be religious in the very best style, where's the use? If another Society has a more modern & taking edifice, how it does chill the devotion! Well, if the fire warms up their religious zeal, it won't have happened for nothing. Fare thee well. With much love & kind regards, in which Sarah & Ade warmly join, for all your family, I am,
Most truly, Your affectionate Cousin, Saml May Jr.

You say nothing about Meacham. How
did you find matters there?

Rev. Samuel J. May
Syracuse,
N.Y.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is written in cursive and covers most of the page area.]